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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/552,031

10/03/2005

Atsuya Kato

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EXAMINER

SCHIRO, RYAN RAYMOND

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/10/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/552,031	Applicant(s) KATO ET AL.	
	Examiner RYAN SCHIRO	Art Unit 1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/22/2007, 12/20/2005, and 10/03/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (JP 04066172) in view of Takahashi et al. (US 3883453, herein referred to as '453).

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Takahashi is drawn to a method for forming a coating containing a thermosetting resin on a metal raw material (abstract). The liquid coating composition is comprised of monomers such as hydroxyl, carboxyl and amino group containing monomers (p. 6, para. 1). Specifically, an alkyl ester (having C 1-11) of methacrylic acid can be included, as required by claim 1 (p. 7, para. 2). It is favorable for the hydroxyl and carboxyl group-containing resin to have a hydroxyl value of about 30 to 200 and an acid number of about 20 to 150, as required by claim 1 (p. 8, para. 3). In a preferred embodiment of Takahashi, 30 parts by weight of methylated melamine resin are added to 70 parts by solids content of acrylic resin, which is about 42 parts per 100 parts, as required by claim 2 (p. 20, para. 2). Another preferred embodiment teaches the addition of a hydroxyl-containing unsaturated monomer of hydroxylpropyl methacrylate, as required by claim 3 (p. 20, para. 2).

The coating is meant to be applied to a car wheel made of aluminum alloy, as required by claim 5. Conventionally-known additives, pigments and the like for coating materials can be compounded with the water-based coating material (p. 15, para. 1). A finished cured coating can be obtained by performing baking after the coating of the water-based coating material on the aluminum wheel, as required by claims 7-13 (p. 16, para. 2). A multilayered coating can be obtained by performing baking after further coating a thermosetting topcoat coating material on the water-based coating, as required by claims 7-13 (p. 17, para. 1). The thermosetting top coating has outstanding finished appearance, weatherability, color retention, among other properties, as required by claims 7-13 (p. 17, para. 2).

Takahashi does not teach the percentages of copolymers, specific monomers and epoxy resin, as required by claims 1-4.

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'453 teaches a coating composition containing a copolymer of alkyl esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid and amino resin, as required by claim 1 (abstract). C1 to C20 alkyl esters of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid within the range of 2 to 50 percent, as required by claim 1 (col. 2, lines 17-25). About 4 to 25% of other hydroxy containing monomers, such as 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate required by claim 3, are preferable components of the mixture (col. 2, lines 45-47 and 50-56). '453 also teaches that a wide variety of other resins such as epoxy, phenolic and vinylic resins can be included in the composition, as required by claims 3 and 4 (col. 4, lines 3-5). The proportion of amino resin in the polymer components is about 10 to 40% by weight, as required by claim 2 (col. 1, lines 31-32).

It would have been obvious to a person ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Takahashi, drawn to specific hydroxyl values, acid values, and intended coating use, with the teaching of '453, drawn to specific percentages and monomers as well as epoxy resin. One would have been motivated to make this combination because both teachings are drawn to coating compositions that do not contain a large amount of volatile organic solvents and have higher solids content.

Overlapping ranges are *prima facie* evidence of obviousness. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have selected the portion of Takahashi's acid and hydroxyl value ranges that correspond to the required acid and hydroxyl value ranges of claim 1. *In re Malagari*, 184 USPQ 549 (CCPA 1974).

It is an inherent property of the coating composition taught by Takahashi in view of '453 that the coating composition can be clear because there is no material difference in the composition of the required coating, which can be clear, and the coating taught by Takahashi in

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view of '453. Therefore, the teachings of Takahashi in view of '453 are drawn to a coating that can be clear, as required by claim 6.

Claims 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of '453 further in view of Hirata et al. (US 5252399).

Takahashi in view of '453 does not specify a powdered primer precoat or a clear coating, as required by claims 8-13.

Hirata teaches a weather-resistant coating for aluminum wheels (col. 1, lines 5-25) having good corrosion resistance consisting of a primer layer of a powder coating composition, a base coat layer of an acrylic composition formed on the powder layer, a topcoat composition on the base coat layer and a clear acrylic barrier coating formed on the topcoat composition, as required by claims 8-13 (col. 2, lines 37-50).

It would have been obvious to a person ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Takahashi in view of '453, drawn to a primer coating with a colored coating applied thereon, with the four layer coating process taught by Hirata. One would have been motivated to make this modification because all of the references are drawn to lowering the amount of organic solvents used in the coating. Also both Hirata and Takahashi are specifically drawn to having good weather resistance and being applied onto an aluminum automobile wheel.

Conclusion

Claims 1-13 are rejected.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan Schiro whose telephone number is 571-270-5345. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 6 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached at 571-272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ryan Schiro
Art unit 1792

/Michael Barr/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792